



OFFICE OF

**PLACER COUNTY CLERK – RECORDER –  
REGISTRAR OF VOTERS**

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**JIM McCAULEY**  
County Clerk-Recorder-Registrar

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Assistant Registrar-Recorder

**Report of 1 percent manual tally count of random  
precincts - Election Code Section 15360(e)**

I, JIM McCAULEY, County Clerk-Recorder-Registrar of Voters, County of Placer, State of California, do hereby certify that on June 10, 2008, a one percent manual tally was completed in conjunction with the June 3, 2008, Statewide Direct Primary Election.

The California Elections Code requires each local election official to conduct a manual count of all contests on ballots cast in a randomly selected one percent of the Election Day voting precincts in order to verify the accuracy of the machine count. This manual tally occurs during the 28-day vote-canvassing period prior to official certification of election results and augments extensive pre-election testing activities to demonstrate the integrity of the vote tabulation system.

This report addresses the manual to machine count comparison of a randomly selected one percent of the AccuVote Optical Scan units deployed on Election Day as well as one vote by mail precinct and two mail ballot precincts.

With 269 voting precincts, Placer County would need to randomly select three precincts to comply with state law. Historically, however, Placer County draws a random precinct from each of our five supervisorial districts, exceeding the legal requirement. The randomly selected slips of paper contained the following precinct numbers: 140658, 240511, 340103, 440601, and 542909.

In addition, to ensure one precinct was manually recounted in every race we selected two mail ballot precincts (6233304 and 6545702). Precinct number 240511 was selected to become the vote by mail precinct to check accuracy for the vote by mail ballots.

Six of the seven selected precincts/races showed exact matching tallies between the manual tally and the election summary report.

One of the seven selected precincts showed one additional vote cast in one race. The result was one additional vote cast in the manual tally compared to the election summary report (see table below).

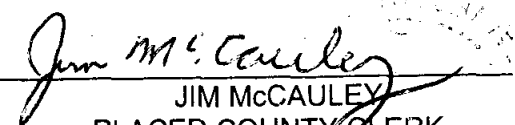
Precinct Number	Race/Measure/Proposition	Election Summary Report	Manual Tally Result
440601	Dem. Central Committee 4 <sup>th</sup> Sup. District/Candidate: Mary V. Clark	6 votes	7 votes

When the manual tally showed one additional vote cast, the elections staff physically examined each ballot. Staff studied each optical scan ballot in the affected precinct and race to determine if ballots were marked correctly (i.e. completely filling in the oval next to candidate, measure or proposition on the ballot). This corresponded with past experiences when conducting a manual tally with different types of ballots (punch card and optical scan). If a voter does not mark the poll ballot correctly, this can cause the ballot tabulating machine to not read the mark and not count the vote. Our audit and examination process did show that one of the optical scan ballots was not marked correctly. The voter used check marks to select his/her choices on the ballot. Thus the marks made by the voter did not have enough pixels in the oval area for the reader head to count the vote.

This circumstance is usually not an issue for vote by mail ballots received at the Elections Division because we have the ability under procedures filed with the California Secretary of State's office to enhance a voter's mark using a highlighting pen.

Information on how to correctly mark the ballot is written on the header of each official ballot. Ballot-marking instructions are given to the voter by the poll worker at the polling place and are posted inside the voting booths. Instructions are also written on the secrecy sleeves that are given to voters at the polling place and inside sample ballots sent to voters. Continuing education and more familiarization with optical scan technology should minimize future problems.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have set my hand and affixed my official seal on this 13<sup>th</sup> day of June 2008, in accordance with the laws of the State of California.

  
JIM McCAULEY  
PLACER COUNTY CLERK-  
RECORDER-REGISTRAR OF VOTERS  
State of California